Docket No.: 041-1894C            PATENT

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of          :

         Toshiki KINDO       :

Serial No. ~~not yet assigned~~ 09/779,838    :   Group Art Unit: ~~unassigned~~ 2121

Filed: 09 February 2001      :   Examiner: ~~unassigned~~ MICHAEL B. HOLMES

For: INFORMATION FILTERING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREFERENTIALLY TAKING OUT INFORMATION HAVING A HIGH NECESSITY

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

     Preliminary to the examination of the attached application, please amend

the application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS

     Please cancel claim 1 and substitute therefor the following new claims:

     33. A metric learning apparatus which reflects, into a metric signal, a

relationship between a user's response to provided information and a keyword

attached to the information, the information including information data and one or

more keywords made up of a character stream and attached to the information

data, the apparatus comprising: